

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DON'T FORGET: Mexican Independence Day Celebration At Old Town San Diego State Historic Park September 15 For The Whole Family

On Saturday, September 15, from 12 Noon to 4 p.m., Old Town San Diego State Historic Park (SHP) will uniquely celebrate Fiestas Patrias – Mexican Independence Day. Old Town San Diego SHP is located on San Diego Avenue and Twiggs Street in San Diego.

Fiestas Patrias is one of a series of *Arts in the Parks* events taking place throughout California's state parks. The California Arts Council and California State Parks have brought a series of distinct performing and visual arts venues to California State Parks that uniquely bridge California's natural beauty and vibrant artistic talent.

This FREE celebration will feature new, dynamic and eclectic performances, including dancers and a puppet show. Dancing, music, and rope tricks, authentic to the early Mexican era of San Diego (1821-46), will be featured on the main stage. Boxtales, a unique storytelling theater troupe, will perform "Mitos y Cuentos," Mayan, Aztec and Mexican folktales with music, masks, and movement. The dance troupe Danza Floricanto will bring the celebration to a close with their Californio dances.

Entertainment at the Estudillo Mexican hacienda will include a chautauqua about a Californio woman landowner. A puppet show telling the story of the raising of the Bear Flag by U.S. settlers in Sonoma will take place at the Mason Street School lawn.

Events also include a grito contest, recalling the historic cry for independence in Mexico on September 16, 1810, and a pepper eating contest on the main stage. Visitors can also enjoy games, such as the Carrera del Gallo, branding, and water relays. A favorite activity is the cascarones decorating station, where participants can make and take home their own decorated blown-out egg filled with birdseed. Historically, a person would break a cascaron on someone's head at parties to demonstrate their affection.

For more information, log on to www.parks.ca.gov or call 619/220.5422.

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